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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 09/636,547)

Filed: August 11, 2000)

Art Unit: 2172

Confirmation No.: 8847)

Examiner: J. Hwang

Inventor: R. Koenig)

Docket No.: 110273.00102

Title: INTERNET-BASED MATCHING)
SERVICE FOR EXPERT CONSULTANTS)
AND CUSTOMERS WITH MATCHING)
OF QUALIFICATIONS AND TIMES OF)
AVAILABILITY)

May 7, 2003

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Office Action dated November 7, 2002, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application in its present form is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection are respectfully solicited.

At the outset, the Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 over *Kouichi et al* has been withdrawn.

Claims 42-52, 54, 56, 58, 60 and 61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Riordan et al* in view of *Kouichi et al*. Claims 53, 55, 57 and 59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Riordan et al* in view of *Kouichi et al* and further in view of *Fohn et al*. For the reasons set forth below, the Applicant respectfully traverses.